C2F 06-03PR   January 31, 2006

Second Fleet Staff Moves into New Building

By Journalist Third Class Joanne De Vera

NORFOLK, Va. -- Commander, 2nd Fleet (C2F), held a ribbon cutting ceremony today

for its new headquarters at building D-29 on board Naval Station Norfolk.

The command moved from building W-5, an 18,500 sq. ft. facility located across from

pier E, the tug piers, on January 9 to its new 58,000 sq. ft. facility, which previously was the base

furniture store. The new offices allow C2F to increase its footprint on Command and Control by

increasing the technological capabilities of the headquarters.

"With the move to the new building we can be the maritime operations center not only

for the fleet but also for Joint Forces Command (JFCOM)," said Commander, Second Fleet Vice

Admiral Mark Fitzgerald.

"The space available at D-29 allows us to comfortably flex to support a larger staff

during Joint Task Force Exercises (JTFEX), which was close to impossible at W-5," said Master

Chief Culinary Specialist Keith Oxley, C2F Staff Command Master Chief. "The larger building

allows for more desks and more computers, which ultimately raised morale among the staff."

The move was a long time coming for the staff, which used W-5 as a temporary location

following the reassignment of its previous headquarters, the command ship USS Mount Whitney

(LCC/JCC 20), to the Commander, Sixth Fleet in Gaeta, Italy in 2004. Key portions of the C2F

staff remain in sea-going billets onboard the C2F Command Ship, USS Wasp (LHD-1), under

the "distributed-staff" concept.

To prepare for the new building, C2F coordinated a military construction contract simultaneously with multiple repair contracts and upgrades. It took three days to move all C2F personnel and equipment to D-29. However, four months prior to the move, some Sailors were already working in the building to wire the new facilities for computers and networks.

Information Systems Technician 2nd Class Joseph White was part of the group of 10 Sailors who worked to get the building's Local Area Network (LAN) up and running. The team coordinated with contractors to wire 450 computer drops throughout the building, allowing for 450 separate computers.

"The technological capabilities we now have are worth all the hours we put into setting up the LAN," said White. "Along with more bandwidth, we are capable of exchanging information with C2F staff embarked aboard ships at higher speeds."

White says the move from W-5 was nothing but positive for the C2F staff.

"Everyone has their own space to work out of - a huge improvement over sharing desks at W-5," said White. "Now, we can fully commit to getting our assignments done and we have more capability to actually do our jobs."

-C2F-